ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The physical strain and frustrated intellectual exercise in preparing this thesis have been tempered by challenging human relationships. Had it not been for the people and institutions who willingly offered their best, this study would have been incomplete. They were there when I needed them most. I would like to thank

- my guide and mentor **Professor Ratan Parimoo** for his valuable lessons in methodology and perception of art historical values. I owe much to him for his continual encouragement and letting me learn and grow from my own mistakes;
- Shri M.A. Dhaky, for letting me share in his vast know-ledge of the subject, provoking me to think and raise questions; and Mrs. Gitanjali Dhaky for those special Saturday evenings in Varanasi;
- Shri K.R. Srinivasan, Retired Deputy Director General,
 Archaeological Survey of India, who took me into the heart
 of South Indian architecture and gave me a set of his
 reprints from the Encyclopaedia of Indian Temple Architecture, edited by M. Meister and M.A. Dhaky;

- Shri K.V. Soundara Rajan, Retired Director General, Archaeo-logical Survey of India, for his stimulating discussions;
- Shri Krishnadeva, Consultant, American Institute of Indian
 Studies, for his worldly wise approach to understanding art and architecture:
- The American Institute of Indian Studies, Varanasi, for awarding me a Junior Fellowship (1985) and letting me avail their facilities and providing me a set of fifty quarter size photographs for use in my thesis;
- The Archaeological Survey of India, Southern Circle, Madras, for permitting me to photograph protected monuments and use of their library facilities;
- Shri V.R. Nambiar, Associate Director, Administration,
 American Institute of Indian Studies, for his invaluable
 cooperation;
- Shri K. Janakiraman, my country cousin, who walked the temples around Tirucirappali and Pudukottai and gave me profound confidence in the goodness of people;
- Dr. Shivaji Pannikar and Shri Deepak Kannal, my colleagues for their encouragement and valuable suggestions;

- Ms. Gauri Parimoo, Madhu Tiwari, Revathi Rupa and Nita

 Thakore, my student friends who with their youthful spirit

 widened my horizons;
- Smt. Aarti Kulasreshtha and Smt. Padmini Sankaran... who were always around to prod me into completing my work;
- Smt. and Shri Panchanadam, for their warm hospitality and assistance in Tirucirappalli;
- My parents and parents-in-law for their silent encouragement;
- My husband **Sivaram** and son, **Sushil**, for bearing patiently with all my inconsistencies and idiosyncracies;
- Shri Ramchandar and Shri Himanushu for their skillful assistance in photography and
- Shri Shaikh, for his meticulous and efficient typing of the thesis.